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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims.

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

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6. (previously presented) A heat spreader, comprising:
a plurality of fibers oriented approximately along a horizontal axis;
a second plurality of fibers oriented approximately along the second horizontal axis,
approximately perpendicular to the first set of fibers;
a third plurality of fibers, some or all oriented approximately at an angle greater than
0 degrees and less than 90 degrees to the first and second sets of fibers; and
a thermally conductive material disposed about the fibers.
 7. (original) The heat spreader of claim 6, wherein the fibers are comprised of carbon.
 8. (original) The heat spreader of claim 6, wherein the fibers are woven.
 9. (original) The heat spreader of 6, wherein the third plurality of fibers are chopped.
 10. (previously presented) A heat spreader, comprising:
a first layer of fibers, oriented approximately along a horizontal axis;

a second layer of fibers, oriented approximately along the same horizontal axis, the second layer having a different fiber density than the first layer;

a second plurality of fibers in the second layer, oriented approximately along a second horizontal axis, approximately perpendicular to the first set of fibers in the second layer;

a third plurality of fibers in the second layer, oriented approximately in the vertical direction, approximately perpendicular to the first and second sets of fibers in the second layer;

a third layer of fibers, having a fiber density different than the fiber density of the second layer; and

a thermally conductive material disposed about the fibers.

11. (original) The heat spreader of claim 10, wherein the first and third layers have a higher fiber density than the second layer.

12. (original) The heat spreader of claim 10, wherein the first and third layers have similar fiber densities.

13. (original) The heat spreader of claim 10, wherein the fibers are comprised of carbon.

14. (original) The heat spreader of claim 10, wherein the fibers are woven.

15. (original) The heat spreader of claim 11, wherein the fibers in the first and third layers are chopped.

Claims 16-30 (cancelled)

As a preliminary matter, in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2003, the Examiner did not attach an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form references that were mailed to the PTO on June 27, 2003. As such, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these references have been considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 and 12-14 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tobita (U.S. Patent No. 6,451,418). The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobita ('418). The Applicant respectfully traverses. The cited reference does not anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's claimed invention. In particular, Tobita does not teach the element of independent claim 6 of "a third plurality of fibers, some or all oriented approximately at an angle greater than 0 degrees and less than 90 degrees to the first and second sets of fibers", the first and second sets of fibers being in a horizontal axis. Tobita also does not teach the element of independent claim 10 of three layers of fibers, the second layer having a different fiber density than the first layer of fibers, and the third layer having a different fiber density than the second layer of fibers.

The Examiner cites Tobita from the first paragraph of column 3 and states that "two directions or more within the surface (...the Y direction and another direction within the X Y surface) clearly means that any "other" direction within the X Y surface must necessarily be at some angle other than 0 or 90 degrees to both the X and Y direction. If it were perpendicular or parallel to either, then it would by definition be either the X or Y direction and not "another" direction." The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of the translation of Tobita. The language of the Tobita translation is difficult to understand in many instances and thus rendered fairly vague. In contrast to teaching a third plurality of fibers oriented at an angle greater than 0 degrees and less than 90 degrees to the first and second sets of fibers in the horizontal plane, the Applicant interprets the sentence cited by the Examiner, "...the Y direction and another direction *within* the X Y surface" to mean another set of fibers within the horizontal X Y surface at a 0 degree angle to the fibers already present

in the X Y surface and not at some angle other than 0 or 90 degrees to both the X and Y direction as claimed by the Applicant. The Applicant makes this interpretation of Tobita in light of the Tobita patent as a whole. The Tobita patent as a whole nowhere describes the Applicant's claimed invention of independent claim 6 of "a third plurality of fibers, some or all oriented approximately at an angle greater than 0 degrees and less than 90 degrees to the first and second sets of fibers", the first and second sets of fibers being in a horizontal axis. In contrast Tobita seems to teach combinations of fibers at 0 or 90 degree angles to one another, as is apparent from figures 3-5 of Tobita. Because the first paragraph of column 3 from which the specific sentence cited by the Examiner is from the Summary portion of the Tobita patent, it follows that it must reflect the teachings of the detailed description and figures of the patent where Tobita clearly fails to teach the Applicant's claimed invention of independent claim 6 of "a third plurality of fibers, some or all oriented approximately at an angle greater than 0 degrees and less than 90 degrees to the first and second sets of fibers", the first and second sets of fibers being in a horizontal axis.

Additionally, Tobita fails to teach the element of independent claim 10 of "a first layer of fibers...; a second layer of fibers,..., the second layer having a different fiber density than the first layer;...[and] a third layer of fibers, having a fiber density different than the fiber density of the second layer." In contrast, Tobita merely teaches a resin substrate containing a single layer of fibers having a single fiber density.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Applicant's independent claims 6 and 10, and the dependent claims 7-9 and 11-15 that incorporate the elements of independent claims 6 and 10, respectively, are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Tobita.

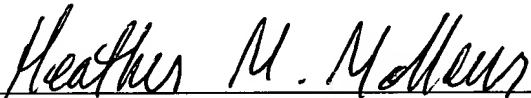
Application No. 09/955,889
Preliminary Amdt. dated November 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2003

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Heather M. Molleur
Reg. No. 50,432

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300